

CLAIMS:

1. A method for creating a preload, wherein an object of said preload is an aggregation of one or more software element objects, comprising the steps of:
 - defining a particular preload object with one or more attributes;
 - comparing attributes of said one or more software element objects with said one or more attributes of said particular preload object, wherein each of said one or more software element objects constitutes one or more of a device driver object, an operating system object and an application software object;
 - identifying one or more of said one or more software element objects whose attributes comprise said one or more attributes of said particular preload object; and
 - installing software associated with said identified one or more software elements objects onto a particular preload associated with said particular preload object.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - modifying an attribute of said identified one or more software element objects to match said one or more attributes of said particular preload object.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more software element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises one or more of an operating system information and an installation information.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more software element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises a part number.
5. The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:
 - transmitting one or more part numbers associated with said identified one or more software element objects to a manufacturing system; and

- 4 retrieving software associated with said identified one or more software
- 5 element objects based on said one or more part numbers.

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1 6. A computer program product having a computer readable medium having
2 computer program logic recorded thereon for creating a preload, comprising the
3 programming steps of:

4 defining a particular preload object with one or more attributes;

5 comparing attributes of said one or more software element objects with said
6 one or more attributes of said particular preload object, wherein each of said one or
7 more software element objects constitutes one or more of a device driver object, an
8 operating system object and an application software object;

9 identifying one or more of said one or more software element objects whose
10 attributes comprise said one or more attributes of said particular preload object; and

11 installing software associated with said identified one or more software
12 elements objects onto a particular preload associated with said particular preload
13 object.

1 7. The computer program product as recited in claim 6 further comprises the
2 programming step of:

3 modifying an attribute of said identified one or more software element objects
4 to match said one or more attributes of said particular preload object.

1 8. The computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said one
2 or more software element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said
3 attribute data comprises one or more of an operating system information and an
4 installation information.

1 9. The computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said one
2 or more software element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said
3 attribute data comprises a part number.

1 10. The computer program product as recited in claim 9 further comprises the
2 programming steps of:

3 transmitting one or more part numbers associated with said identified one or
4 more software element objects to a manufacturing system; and

5 retrieving software associated with said identified one or more software
6 element objects based on said one or more part numbers.

1 11. A system, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is
4 operable for storing a computer program for creating a preload, wherein an object of
5 said preload is an aggregation of one or more software element objects, wherein the
6 computer program is operable for performing the following programming steps:

7 defining a particular preload object with one or more attributes;
8 comparing attributes of said one or more software element objects with
9 said one or more attributes of said particular preload object, wherein each of said one
10 or more software element objects constitutes one or more of a device driver object, an
11 operating system object and an application software object;

12 identifying one or more of said one or more software element objects
13 whose attributes comprise said one or more attributes of said particular preload
14 object; and

15 installing software associated with said identified one or more
16 software element objects onto a particular preload associated with said particular
17 preload object.

1 12. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer program is further
2 operable for performing the following programming step:

3 modifying an attribute of said identified one or more software element objects
4 to match said one or more attributes of said particular preload object.

1 13. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said one or more software
2 element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises
3 one or more of an operating system information and an installation information.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said one or more software
2 element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises
3 a part number.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer program is further
2 operable for performing the following programming steps:

3 transmitting one or more part numbers associated with said identified one or
4 more software element objects to a manufacturing system; and

5 retrieving software associated with said identified one or more software
6 element objects based on said one or more part numbers.